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FAIRHAVEN POLICE
DETECTIVE DIVISION

Investigations



Many officers in uniform yearn to be detectives until they actually get that promotion. Little do they realize that the hours are long, sleep is minimal, and the responsibility of a detective is tremendous. Normally, officers must have at least three years of law enforcement experience before they can apply to become detective. In larger jurisdictions, they may be assigned to a specialized unit such as homicide, burglary, auto theft, vice, or white collar. In many smaller police agencies, they need to be proficient in whatever crime they are summoned to investigate.

Upon arrival at the crime scene, the responding uniformed officer explains the event to the detective. The better the officer did his job, the better the knowledge the detective will have of the crime scene and the events that occurred there.

Every detective is unique. Some are rough while some are smooth. All the well-rounded ones have the

practical knowledge of a street patrolman, an insight on the forensic sciences, the knowledge of a prosecutor, and an ability to put together bits of information, such as people, events, and evidence, in space and time in order to come up with an investigative scenario of the crime that took place.

A detective ensures that all the duties of a patrolman have been completed at the scene. A good detective not only knows that the case is dependent on what the first responding officer did, but also remembers what it was like to be in the patrolman's shoes. It is essential that there must be a good rapport between uniformed officers and detectives.

After being debriefed by the patrol officer, the detective performs the following duties:

- Determines if a search warrant is needed to conduct a search.
- Interviews the victim or victims repeatedly.

- Determines the status of the alleged offender. Is the offender in custody? Is the suspect a minor? Has the offender been read his/her rights?
- Determines if the witnesses are only witnesses or are heavily involved in the commission of the criminal act.
- Reports the early status of the investigation to his/her superiors, uniformed officers, other detectives, and staff members.
- Determines if other law enforcement agencies should be contacted.
- Maintains control over the flow of information.
- Develops hypotheses regarding the incident based on evidence.

The more serious and complex the crime scene, the more time is required to gather and document evidence. In the case of a

murder scene, the detective has the choice not to gather or touch the evidence but leaves this up to highly-trained crime scene personnel to process the scene.

You may have information that is valuable to the police. Share this information with an officer and the information may be valuable to you!

Contact the Fairhaven police tip line at **508-979-4100**. All calls are confidential.

Currently the Fairhaven police department has five detectives assigned to handle whatever crimes are reported, including but not limited to, murder, MV homicide, suspicious deaths, drug violations, domestic and elder abuse cases.

Please help in keeping Fairhaven a safe place to live and raise a family. Quality of life should not take a back seat to crime.

**TIP LINE:
508-979-4100**

Detectives are plainclothes investigators who gather facts and collect evidence for criminal cases. Some are assigned to interagency task forces to combat specific types of crime. They conduct interviews, examine records, observe the activities of suspects, and participate in raids or arrests. Detectives usually specialize in investigating one of a wide variety of violations, such as homicide, domestic violence, sex or fraud. They are assigned cases and work on them until an arrest and conviction occurs or until the case is dropped.

Signs of Drug Abuse

PERSONALITY:

Becomes disrespectful, is verbally and physically abusive. Is angry a lot, acts paranoid or confused, or suffers from extreme mood swings. Seems depressed and less out-going than usual. Is secretive and lies about what he is doing and where he is going. Is stealing or "losing" possessions he used to value. Seems to have a lot of money, or is always asking for money. Withdraws from the family and activities.

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE:

Not taking care of hygiene and grooming. Not sleeping or sleeping too much. Loss of appetite. Weight loss or weight gain. Too hyperactive or too little energy.

SOCIAL ACTIVITY/SCHOOL PERFORMANCE:

Drops old friends and activities. Is skipping school. Loses interest in school work and is getting low grades. Is sleeping in class. Loses concentration and is having trouble remembering things.